



California's First Lady Maria Shriver

Shining a Light on California





Together we can
be courageous,
remarkable and
a powerful force
to keep California
shining bright
for our future
generations.

MARIA SHRIVER

Dear Californians,

I must admit I was terrified when the reality set in that I would be the first lady of California. I had no idea what a first lady did or should do. I was afraid of how it would affect my children and my marriage. I was worried when my twenty-five year-long career as a journalist vanished overnight because NBC executives thought I could no longer report the news without bias.

I still can recall the feeling of those great rolling waves of panic. But someone once told me that courage is walking through your fear with faith. It was then, that I took a long look around me.

I thought about my Best Buddy, Katie Courteyou, who told me that before she got involved with Best Buddies, she had no friends at all. Since finding the courage to get out and meet new people, she is now a renowned speaker on behalf of people with disabilities. I also thought about Jane Bright, whose son, Evan Ashcroft, was killed in Iraq. Rather than retreat into a shell, Jane went out and started the Evan Ashcroft Memorial Foundation that awards scholarships and provides medical and psychological treatment for our service men and women returning from war.

These two women and the many more I have come to know inspire and empower me. So I thought to myself, Maria, you have nothing to complain about. And I remembered what my dear friend Wanda's dad would say to me, "Get your get-up-and-go and get going!"

And I did get going. Yes, the job of being your first lady is more challenging than I ever thought it could be. But, it is also humbling, exhilarating and one of my greatest honors.

I began to adapt journalism into my new role and I set out to tell the California story. In my travels throughout the state, I am shining a light on California's remarkable women who are serving as extraordinary architects of change and upon the multitude of humanitarian organizations that are successfully serving our state's most needy populations.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to walk upon the strong foundation laid by California's remarkable former first ladies.

And, I am even more thrilled to have set forth upon my own unique journey.

I invite you to join me in continuing my efforts to ensure California families are prepared for the inevitable day when disaster strikes our state; that all our children are provided an opportunity to grow up exercising and eating healthy foods; that the California Service Corps expands its reach so that every Californian who wants to help others can be matched with an opportunity to serve; and that our state takes a compassionate interest in the plight of our own citizens – men, women and children – who are living in impoverished, third-world conditions.

Together we can be a courageous, remarkable and powerful force to keep California shining bright for our future generations.

Regards,

Maria Shriver

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Building Upon Traditions of the Past

Modern government met Victorian hospitality as the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park officially opened its doors as California's center for protocol.

After an extensive restoration process, the elegant home located two blocks from the State Capitol now provides the governor and state leaders with an ideal setting for discussions vital to the state's economic growth and business development.

"I am honored to be the first governor in the 21st century to use the Stanford Mansion," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "The Stanford Mansion is a magnificent building where we can host visiting dignitaries and business leaders from around the world and the nation to promote our state and to grow our economy for the benefit of all Californians."

The Stanford Mansion has a long and illustrious history serving the people of California. Originally the home for Leland Stanford and his family from the 1860s until 1900, the Mansion housed the

offices of not only Stanford when he became Governor, but also the office for Governors Fredrick Low and Henry Haight. The Stanford Mansion was also the site of California's first presidential visit, when Rutherford B. Hayes, accompanied by General William T. Sherman, visited the mansion in 1880.

In 1900, Mrs. Jane Lathrop Stanford donated the Mansion to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Sacramento, who used the Stanford Mansion for much of the 20th century as a home for friendless children.

The role of the Stanford Mansion has now come full circle.

"The Stanford Mansion is a testament to California's talented and brilliant First Lady Jane Stanford who enriched our state by turning her home into a place where leaders could gather to discuss matters of diplomacy and to First Ladies Gayle Wilson and Sharon Davis who restored this historic home to its original grandeur," said First Lady Maria Shriver.



Governor Schwarzenegger, First Lady Maria Shriver and Chief of Protocol Charlotte Shultz attend the Stanford Mansion opening ceremonies.



In 1978, the State of California purchased the Stanford Mansion property for use as a state park.



First Lady Jane Stanford

First Lady Maria Shriver delivers remarks before the State Senate in celebration of Women's History Month.



For 154 years the first ladies of California only entered the legislative chambers with the governors for social events. Until 2004, this drawing featured by the Sacramento Bee in 1879 shows the only image of a first lady in the legislative chamber without the governor. Mrs. Irwin and other local dignitaries posed with President Grant's wife in the Senate Chambers. **It wasn't until 2004 that a first lady, Maria Shriver, not only entered the legislative chambers without the governor but also addressed the Senate and Assembly during Women's History Month.**



And when Ms. Shriver complained about having to give up her broadcast journalism career when her husband became governor, she said her mother snapped, "Too damn bad about you." Laughing, she said her mother's forthrightness gives her strength to forge ahead, as do the examples of people she meets in her travels... Everyone in this room has an abundance of courage that they can use to inspire. Have the courage to tell your own story."

PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN
NEW YORK TIMES
MARCH 31, 2005

The Evolving Role of California's First Lady

The correspondence between outgoing First Lady Virginia Knight and incoming First Lady Bernice Brown illustrates the traditional role of California's first ladies. This letter is framed and hangs today in the State Capitol's Office of the First Lady.

Today, Maria continues the many traditions former first ladies have passed on to one another as California politics evolved over the past decades, including writing congratulatory messages, mailing annual Christmas and holiday cards, hosting gubernatorial receptions, supporting her husband by attending gubernatorial events and much more.

Maria has also set forth upon her own unique journey and serves as a trailblazer for California's future first spouses.

CORRESPONDENCE CROSS-FILES:

- Anniversary acknowledgments
- Baby Congratulations
- Birthday Greetings
- Birthday Card Acknowledgments
- Clipping Acknowledgments
- Condolence Letters
- Contribution Requests--Acknowledgments
- Flowers--Thankyous
- Get Well Letters
- Get-Well Acknowledgments
- Greeting Card (except birthdays) Acknowledgments
- Gift Thankyous
- Invitations -- Accepted
- Invitations -- Declinations
- Occasion Thankyous
- PARCEL POST REQUESTS
- Picture Thankyous
- Poetry -- Thank you for liking Mrs. Knight's.
- " -- Letters of appreciation to other poets for copies of their poetry
- " -- Published, and offers to publish
- Recipe Requests
- Political Support -- Acknowledgments
- Wedding Congratulations

From First Lady Virginia Knight
to First Lady Bernice Brown

January 1959



California's First Lady Builds a Different Role From Bits of Glitter, Steel and Savvy

By PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN

SACRAMENTO — There are 16 million women in California, and Maria Shriver is only one of them. But as she strode past the potted palms and the oil paintings of aging gray-haired former governors earlier this month to address the Legislature — the first time in modern history a California first lady had taken the rostrum without her husband — it was difficult not to sense the symbolic import of the state's alpha female.

"We have a lot in common," Ms. Shriver told 120 rapt "women of the year" being honored by the lawmakers, a group upon whom her husband has heaped all his trying to get my husband what we want.



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"We have a lot in common," Ms. Shriver told 120 rapt "women of the year" being honored by the lawmakers, a group upon

for the first time and saw no photographs or references to California first ladies. "They were invisible," she recalled.

During the campaign, Ms. Shriver met with hundreds of accomplished women, and later spearheaded an exhibition called "California's Remarkable Women." Friends say she views the women's museum as a legacy. It first opened in 1996 as the Golden State Museum to showcase the state's archives and was on the verge of bankruptcy when the board approached Ms. Shriver as a potential savior.

Critics accused her of narrowing

women honored by the legislature, Ms. Shriver spoke with honorees like Edna Alvarado, an 80-year-old community leader from Watts, and Dina Eastwood, a philanthropist whose husband, Clint, clutched his wife's pink suede purse.

Despite her upbringing in the public eye, Ms. Shriver remains intensely private, strictly controlling her image and public appearances. She keeps a rule of no more than one night a week away from home, spending most of her time with the couple's four children, ages 7 to 15. She has tried to put the commute between Los Angeles and Sacramento

whom her husband has famously heaped disdain. "We're all trying to get my husband to do what we want."

After an initial period of ambivalence, in which she left her network television job because of possible conflicts of interest and assumed a potentially retro role, Ms. Shriver is on her way to becoming California's most influential first lady ever, observers say.

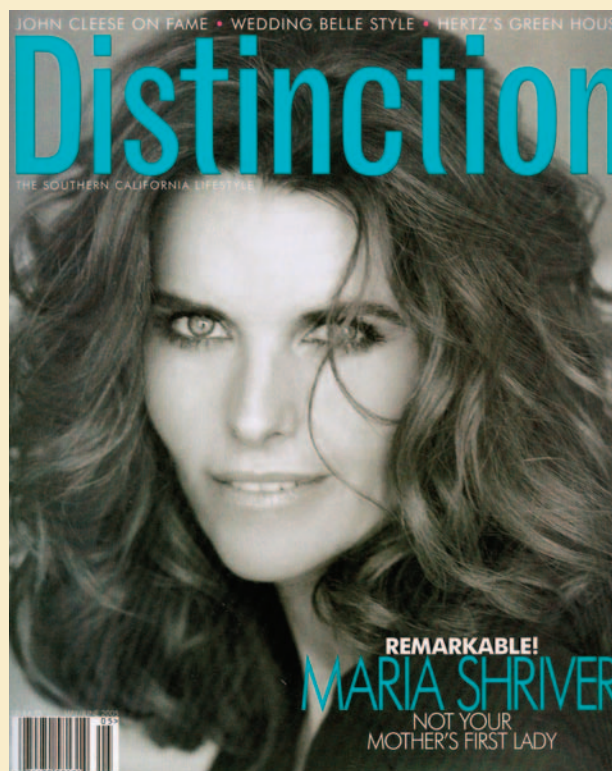
PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN
NEW YORK TIMES
MARCH 31, 2005

I remember
Eleanor
Roosevelt
once said,
"Do something
that scares you
every day."

MARIA SHRIVER
MARCH 14, 2005



Maria frequently appears on the cover of magazines that are distributed throughout California, the country and the world. She also appears often as a guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Larry King Live, the Today Show and on many other network, cable and local programs.





Governor Schwarzenegger is touched by a warm greeting from a loving fan.

A Courageous Man. A Generous Person.

...And even though we are not seeing always things the same way politically, let me tell you something. There's one thing we have in common; we believe very strongly in helping those that need help. I'm not talking here today about politics, because we do plenty of that up in Sacramento. I'm here today about something much more important than that and that is to talk about giving.

Because let me tell you something, I came over here as an immigrant 38 years ago and I came over here with absolutely nothing and I saw firsthand how generous this country is. As a matter of fact, the first time when I spent Christmas here – I arrived just before Christmas in 1968 – the bodybuilders and the weightlifters and the power

lifters in the gymnasium in Gold's Gym, they gave me toys, they gave me gifts, they gave me all kinds of dishes and silverware so I had a place to live and a place to have something to eat. They gave me food, they gave me a television set and all of those kinds of things. I saw generosity that I've never seen anywhere in the world and I traveled all over the world.

And what we see here today is going on all over the United States, where people get together, where toy companies get together, manufacturers of toys get together, and the sporting goods and stuff like that and giving it to the children and giving it to families that are less fortunate, families that need help, people that don't have always money to give to their children gifts, people that don't have enough money to give to other people gifts. So this is what this country is all about, is about sharing and about giving, not just receiving. This is why I say this is the most generous country in the world and what you see here today is just a perfect example of that. So this is something that we can celebrate.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH
DELIVERED AT THE HOLLENBECK
CENTER / MIRACLE ON 1ST
STREET CHRISTMAS TOY
GIVEAWAY
DECEMBER 2005

Maria and Arnold



The Arnold I know is a good man and a courageous man.

He is a man who cares about people and always has. He's a guy who spent fifteen years working in inner city neighborhoods, establishing after-school programs for kids – trying to help people.

The Arnold I know is open-minded. He's not right wing; he's not left wing. He really makes his decisions based on what he thinks is right for all Californians. And even in the face of attacks and criticism – he's an eternal optimist. I admire that about him. He truly envisions a California where everyone does better.

That's what motivated him to run for Governor. And that's what motivates him to go on.

Governor Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver unveil the Declaration of Independence at the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts.

So while we may not agree on every single thing – and frankly I don't know any couple that does, I'm proud of him and I gotta give him credit. No matter how tough it gets, he has the strength and the courage to press on.

MARIA SHRIVER

EXCERPTS FROM MARIA'S
SPEECH DELIVERED AT
THE 2005 GOVERNOR'S
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
AND FAMILIES HELD IN LONG
BEACH, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 2005

Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver arrive at their neighborhood polling place to cast their votes together – as they do on every Election Day.



“And it is really extraordinary, the kinds of things that she does while she's still raising our four kids. Maria reminds Californians how honorable it is to be a mother. All the while, it is really amazing because she is a fantastic leader and advocate for our state.”

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER



June 26, 1961: Peace Corps founder and legendary volunteer Sargent Shriver talks to the first 81 corps volunteers before a two-year mission in Colombia.

In an effort to shine a spotlight on successful strategies for fighting poverty in our state, Maria often visits exemplary programs serving California's poor and homeless populations.

A FAMILY LEGACY OF SERVICE

Peace Corps Founder Sargent Shriver Honored

DECEMBER 12, 2005

BOSTON – Former vice presidential candidate Sargent Shriver, who helped his brother-in-law John F. Kennedy create the Peace Corps in 1961, was hailed by friends and family Monday night as a man who used boundless energy and religious faith to improve the world.

Shriver, now 90 and impaired by Alzheimer's disease, did not give a speech, but he appeared physically fit and smiled broadly as he waved to well-wishers at his tribute at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum.

He was accompanied by his wife of 52 years, Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

A panel moderated by Chris Matthews of MSNBC's Hardball regaled the audience with anecdotes about Shriver's service as the original director of the Peace Corps and his subsequent role in President Johnson's War on Poverty and his work with his wife creating the Special Olympics, which has grown to include 2 million athletes in 160 countries.

Political columnist Mark Shields said Shriver was an ardent believer in the power of ideas.

"For him ideas had no sex, gender or age. He just loved ideas. He was promiscuous about ideas," Shields said.

Shriver biographer Scott Stossel noted that some people regarded Shriver as politically naive when he launched the Peace Corps.

"Things like red tape and bureaucratic infighting, he just ignored them," Stossel said. "If this is naivete, let's have more of it."

Shriver, a Navy veteran of World War II, was the Democratic nominee for vice president in 1972, after serving as U.S. ambassador to France.

Shriver's son, Tim, said his father's views on fighting poverty were influenced by his devout Catholic faith.

Shields, who directed Shriver's 1972 political campaign, added, "his religion defined his political values but politics did not define his religion."

**BOSTON.COM
THE NEW YORK TIMES
COMPANY**

EUNICE SHRIVER

Special Olympians Strive to Overcome Hurricane Katrina

ONE ATHLETE'S MOTHER CALLED IN THIS STORY:

She lost the bottom floor of her two-story home. Before she returned from their Mississippi sanctuary to survey the wreckage inside her New Orleans home, the mother asked her son what he'd like her to recover from the debris.

"Two things," the young man responded. "One, my Special Olympics picture. Two, my Special Olympics medals."

The mother honored the requests, and made her son's year.

"We can't allow this program to close down," Carpenter said.

"We don't want the athletes to lose the one thing that really improves their self-esteem. Often times in the classroom they feel less and less self-confident when they can't learn as others do. But when they go on the playing field and become champions in their own right, it does wonders for them.

"You can't believe what it means for parents who were told by a doctor their child would never walk, and then to see that same child run in the Special Olympics. You have to see the looks on the athletes' faces when they compete and succeed in sports."

Some of these athletes have gone on to compete in non-handi-

capped tournaments. Some have become coaches. Some have gotten jobs in stores and businesses that wouldn't have otherwise hired them.

They are all a credit to the vision of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the sister of John F. Kennedy who founded Special Olympics five years after the president's assassination. "And we can't let them down," Carpenter said.

EXCERPTS FROM IAN O'CONNOR'S COLUMN "KEEPING SCORE"

GULF COAST OLYMPIC ATHLETES TRYING TO GET BACK IN THE GAME
USA TODAY
DECEMBER 11, 2005

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EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Ronald Reagan March 26, 1984. The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, recognizes exceptional meritorious service. The medal was established by President Truman in 1945 to recognize notable service in the war. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy reintroduced it as an honor for distinguished civilian service in peacetime.

With enormous conviction and unrelenting effort, Eunice Kennedy Shriver has labored on behalf of America's least powerful people, the mentally retarded. Over the last two decades, she has been on the forefront of numerous initiatives on behalf of the mentally retarded, from creating day camps, to establishing research centers, to the founding of the Special Olympics. Her decency and goodness have touched the lives of many, and Eunice Kennedy Shriver deserves America's praise, gratitude, and love.

**TEXT POSTED ON
THE PRESIDENTIAL
MEDAL OF FREEDOM
HOMEPAGE**

Let me win.

But, if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE OATH

From Backyard Camp to Global Movement: The Beginnings of Special Olympics

The global Special Olympics movement got its start on July 20, 1968, when the First International Special Olympics Games were held at Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois, USA. But the concept of Special Olympics was born much earlier, when Eunice Kennedy Shriver started a day camp for people with physical and intellectual disabilities at her home in 1962. The early Camp Shriver gatherings eventually evolved into Special Olympics — now a global movement with almost 1.2 million athletes in 160 countries around the world. (www.specialolympics.org)



As first lady, Maria continues to serve on behalf of Special Olympics and Best Buddies International programs. Above, Maria and her Best Buddy Katie Courteyou ride together in the 2005 Volvo Hearst Castle Challenge.

PHOTO: WWW.BESTBUDDIES.ORG

“Celebrate
Struggle.”

LINDA ELLERBEE

Being Of Service

As chairwoman of the California Service Corps, Maria Shriver shines a light on the hundreds of programs and opportunities where Californians can make a difference. Whether you are the CEO of a major corporation, a mother, father, young adult or child, Maria believes you too can partner with others and volunteer to do something for California. You can become a mentor, donate food and clothing, or help build homes for the working poor.

At the 2004 California Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women and Families, the California Service Corps hosted the inaugural Volunteer Village and it was a smashing success! Volunteer Village featured more than 30 diverse agencies, including Best Buddies, California Red Cross and the LA Mentoring Project, which showcased many of the exciting ways that



Maria leads reporters on a tour of the Volunteer Village she hosts each year at the Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women and Families.

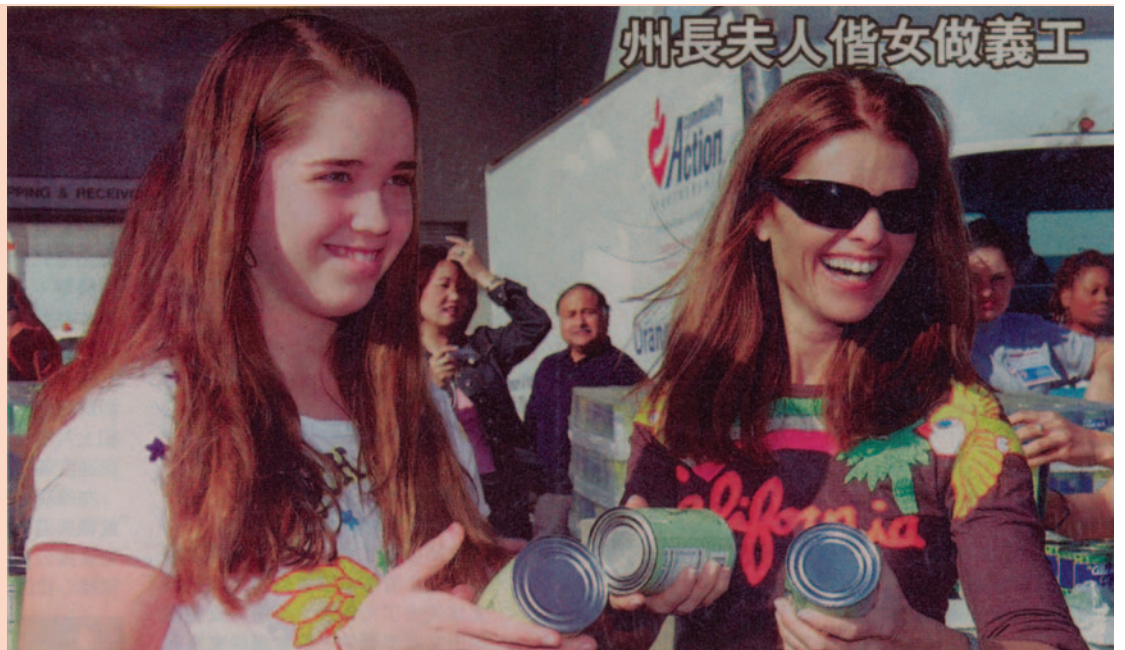
Californians of all ages can give back to their communities through volunteer service.

As part of the California Experience in 2005, Volunteer Village was expanded to include 45 non-profit agencies and organizations. In this unique setting, individuals explore meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunities. Together all Californians bear responsibility for the great state of California and Volunteer Village unites people with programs that are making a difference.



Being of service knows no boundaries. You too can serve whether you're black, white, Latino or Asian—whether you're gay or straight, democrat or republican, green party or independent.

MARIA SHRIVER



州長夫人施莉華與13歲女兒克莉斯汀娜，在馬丁路德金日親往位於花園林市的橙縣義工中心，參加包裝送給貧困人士的食品盒行動。施莉華對在場的義工說，每一個人都可以作出改變世界的事。她說：「即使你不如馬丁路德金有名，也可以做有意義的事。馬丁路德金有一句名言，就是每一個人都可以做偉大的人，不是有名，而是偉大的人，因為偉大是源於你的貢獻上。圖為施莉華與女兒準備把罐頭食物放進紙皮盒內的情形。」（美聯社）

Celebrating the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, Maria and Christina pack boxes at the Community Action Partnership of Orange County Food Bank.

MING PAO
SAN FRANCISCO
JANUARY 18, 2005

A Day of Service – A Call to Action!

First Lady Maria Shriver joins forces with Bob Nardelli, CEO of Home Depot and Darrell Hammond, CEO of KaBoom! to launch California Service Day. On this remarkable day Shriver, Nardelli and Hammond worked side-by-side with more than 700 volunteers and helped build two school-based gardens and playgrounds designed to create a tangible example of Californians answering the “call to service” and to showcase the work and mission of the California Service Corps.

The playgrounds and school gardens were constructed at Ocean and Gabriella Axelrad Charter Schools.

Ocean Charter School was founded around a kitchen table by a group of parents in early

2002 who were seeking to fill an educational need in their community. Community service is the cornerstone of the school's mission statement and prior to the installation of the new playground, the only play space children in the surrounding community had was a nearby parking lot. The new playground will serve children attending the school as well as those who live nearby.

Gabriella Axelrad Charter School is located within a neighborhood that has one of the highest child poverty and child obesity rates in Los Angeles. The only nearby community park is feared to be overrun by transients and drug dealers. An extraordinary mother named Liza Bercouci, who lost her 13 year-old daughter, Gabriella, when a car struck her as she rode her bicycle on



Maria and Bob Nardelli proudly complete the playground signage at Gabriella Axelrad Charter School.

a family vacation to the Grand Teton National Park, founded the school. Through this school, Liza has created a lasting legacy to ensure Gabriella's dreams come true. Liza also has succeeded in providing dance instruction, free of charge, to thousands of Los

Angeles' most needy children. The new playground will serve school children as well as those living in two adjacent low-income housing projects.

SEPTEMBER 2005



Maria joins Ocean Charter school children and plants herbs and flowers.



Liza Bercouci, founder Gabriella Axelrad Charter School, talks with Service Day volunteers.



After viewing the garden mural, Maria takes a moment to enjoy the children's enthusiastic stories.

First Lady Maria Shriver visits with children at the Shanghai Children's Home and learns more about the "Half the Sky Foundation."



Shriver took reporters on a visit Wednesday to highlight the extraordinary work of Jenny Bowen of Berkeley, the founder and executive director of a program called Half the Sky. Bowen's program, a California-based nonprofit operation that has bloomed into an international organization with 20,000 supporters, has been credited with changing the lives of thousands of orphaned girls in China since 1998.

CARLA MARINUCCI
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
NOVEMBER 18, 2005

San Francisco Chronicle

sfgate.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

First lady tours Shanghai orphanage, vows to 'shine a light' on girls' plight

By Carla Marinucci
CHRONICLE POLITICAL WRITER

SHANGHAI — California first lady Maria Shriver, walking slowly through the nurseries of the Shanghai Children's Home, stopped short at the rows of orphaned toddlers, mostly girls, in identical silver cribs, holding out their tiny arms and calling, "Ma-ma."

"It breaks your heart," Shriver said Thursday, her eyes welling up. "You can't help but be moved

as a mother."

While Shriver's husband, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, is busy with a six-day trade mission to promote California business in China, the first lady has her own mission: trying to "shine a light," she said, on the deeds and needs of women and girls at home and abroad.

"You're struck by how much work needs to be done," said Shriver, a former NBC television reporter. She has tried to highlight women's issues on the trip, on

Monday visiting the Maple Women's Psychological Counseling Center in Beijing, a women's organization that helps victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and poverty.

Shriver took reporters on a visit Wednesday to highlight the extraordinary work of Jenny Bowen of Berkeley, the founder and executive director of a program called Half the Sky. Bowen's program, a California-based nonprofit operation that has bloomed into an in-



Maria Shriver watches a film about orphans in China with Lin Guo Chiu, an 8-year-old girl waiting to be adopted, in Shanghai.

China Trade Mission

Maria joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on his six-day trade mission to China. While in China, Maria continued her efforts to showcase remarkable women and exemplary humanitarian programs. Maria joined California native Jenny Bowen, founder of Half the Sky and toured the Shanghai Children's Home. Taking their name from a well-known saying from Chairman Mao that "women hold up half the sky," the child welfare program partners with Chinese orphanages to foster opportunities for children to grow up in "normal" loving environments. She also toured the first Hong Kong based domestic abuse center, the Harmony House and she attended a Remarkable Chinese Women luncheon.



First Lady Maria Shriver tours the Shanghai Children's Home. November 17, 2005



First Lady Maria Shriver visits with the children of Shanghai Children's Home.

First Lady Maria Shriver joined the Governor as he delivered remarks at the Made in California Expo & Showcase Fashion Show at the Kerry Center Hotel in Beijing. November 16, 2005.



The California Museum for History, Women and the Arts



On March 15, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger marked Women's History Month by signing legislation to create the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts. "This new museum will fill a glaring hole in California's historical record by being the first major, permanent site dedicated to the achievements of California's women," the Governor said. The effort to create the California Museum was led by First Lady Maria Shriver and a bipartisan team of legislators. "This museum will present California's rich and diverse history, beautifully display our state's extraordinary archives, and present the many stories of California's remarkable women who serve on the front lines of humanity and are great architects of change," Shriver said.



ON DISPLAY AT THE CALIFORNIA MUSEUM FOR HISTORY, WOMEN AND THE ARTS:

Latinas: The Spirit of California

More than a year ago, I stood here for the opening reception for the California's Remarkable Women exhibit. Its mission continues to shine a light on extraordinary women who have helped shape the wonderful state we know today.

This exhibit captures this same concept and represents many of the untold stories of Latina women who have helped to pave the way for Latinas of today and tomorrow.

Today, Latina women are perhaps more than 9 million strong and their history is instrumental

to California's. I am thrilled the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts will shine a light on the significant imprint that Latina women have left on the California story.

Earlier today, I had the opportunity to tour this exhibit and I was blown away. This exhibit truly captures the spirit, the struggles, the accomplishments and personal stories of California's remarkable Latina women.

Children and families who tour the museum will be inspired by the achievements, strength and courage of women like activ-

California's Remarkable WOMEN



Already on display at the museum is the California's Remarkable Women exhibit that pays tribute to more than two hundred California women.

The museum is housed one block from the State Capitol in Sacramento at 1020 O Street. The building has more than 20,000 square feet of exhibit space and facilities for lectures, performances, receptions and events and In 2006, the entire museum will be overhauled with a modern, high-tech and interactive design.



Maria tours exhibit with honoree, Vikki Carr.

ist Dolores Huerta, movie star and producer Salma Hayek, star athlete Lisa Fernandez and award winning singer, Vikki Carr. They will see first hand that Latinas

have championed every field of study and profession.

MARIA SHRIVER
UNVEILING LATINA EXHIBIT
SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

FEATURED AT THE CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM FOR HISTORY, WOMEN
AND THE ARTS:

Partnering with Norman Lear, Maria Shriver was thrilled to bring the Declaration of Independence to the California Museum for History Women and the Arts. This rare document, one of only 25 remaining original copies of the Declaration of Independence printed on July 4, 1776, was on display from June 30 to October 9, 2005.

“Our nation’s
symbol of freedom
and courage.”

MARIA SHRIVER
JULY 2005

Maria’s Thoughts on Freedom and Courage

EXCERPTS FROM HER JULY 2005 MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

Join me in taking a moment to really savor and appreciate the freedoms we enjoy here in California and our nation and those who had the courage to make a stand and fight for them.

Begin by remembering our forefathers who had the courage in 1776 to think about the ideals and freedoms that would represent a nation and then to put them on to paper. The Declaration of Independence, our nation’s symbol of courage and freedom, has come to California’s capital city for the first time and the opportunity to see it in person at the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts is a powerful and

moving experience. It is my hope that every family in Sacramento and throughout Northern California will take time to come to see this document, think about what it means and consider initiating a vital dialogue with their own children about the significance of our nation’s freedom.

Continue the celebration of freedom by honoring those who have fought for and are currently fighting for our nation and who have had the courage to do the greatest thing you can do for our country – serve and protect. It is their selfless contribution that makes it possible to enjoy the freedoms we cherish and celebrate every July 4th.

The Declaration of Independence



Unveiling Ceremony

Governor Schwarzenegger and Maria were on hand for the unveiling ceremony of this amazing document that garnered statewide and national media attention.

“Of course you can see the Declaration of Independence on a television program or on the Internet but let me tell you, there is nothing like seeing it in person,” Governor Schwar-

zenegger said. “It gives you a feeling you can’t imagine. When I came here and went through the process of becoming a citizen, I read and studied what we call the ‘Charters of Freedom’ the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. And it was incredible to read these documents and see what gave birth to our democracy.”

Of course you can see the
Declaration of Independence on a
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but let me tell you, there is nothing
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GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER
JULY 2005

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

April 2005 Campaign Launch

Honorary Chairperson Maria Shriver and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) launched the yearlong campaign entitled, "Be Smart, Be Responsible, Be Prepared. Be Ready!" This first-of-its-kind public awareness campaign is a statewide public/private partnership that strives to inform all Californians about the urgent need to be disaster prepared. It also focuses on how Californians can be of service to their communities and neighborhoods by receiving disaster training or by volunteering for such non-profit organizations as the California Citizen Corps, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army or the many other community

based organizations located in our state.

"Start building your family disaster plan now," said First Lady Maria Shriver. "We must all bear responsibility for our own safety, the safety of our families, our communities and our state. It's not a matter of if a disaster will strike; it's a matter of when. When you are ready, then California is too."

In an effort to underscore the need for all Californians to be disaster prepared, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared May 2005 "Disaster Preparedness Month."

According to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, an estimated 70 percent of Califor-



Maria Shriver, Jamie Lee Curtis and Raven Symone call upon all California families to be disaster prepared.

nians are unprepared for a natural disaster or terrorist attack and less than 50 percent of households have a disaster supply kit. Whether it's the recent floods and

winter storms or the ever-threatening wildfires and earthquakes, Maria Shriver is helping OES sound the alarm for Californians to be prepared.

Will Your Children Know How to Find You When Disaster Strikes?

Our children mean everything to us. As a parent, have you taken the time to ensure your children know how to reach you if you are away at work or they are attending school when a disaster strikes? Does your family have a plan?

Children are our most vulnerable population in more ways than one. They are also some of our state's quickest studies. That is why Maria partnered with Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and Team Safe-T to ensure her "Be Smart, Be Responsible, Be Prepared. Be Ready!" message reaches California's school-based population. Team Safe-T launched its statewide campaign introducing a disaster preparedness curriculum to our schools in October 2005.

Maria Shriver visits with fourth grade students to talk about ways to be ready in the event of a disaster. Students share their homework and talk about what they have learned during the "Week of Preparedness."

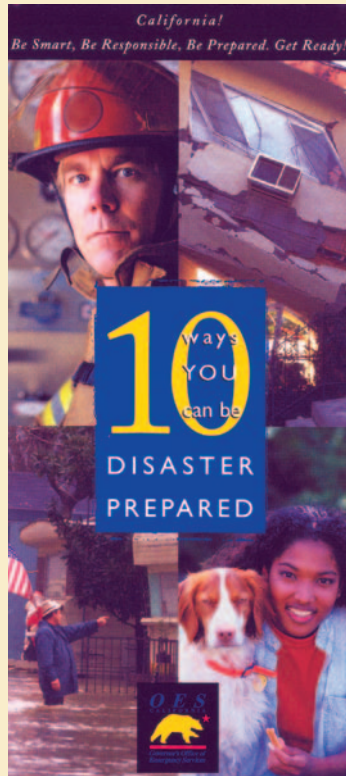


As part of the effort to promote disaster preparedness, Maria Shriver hands out emergency kit backpacks to students, teachers, faculty and staff. Backpacks are filled with items such as a first aid kit, flash light with batteries, emergency blanket, whistle and other essentials. More than 1,500 backpacks were given out this day.



Are You and Your Family Prepared?

The centerpiece of the “Be Ready” campaign is a comprehensive tips brochure, endorsed by the first lady, titled “10 Ways You Can Be Disaster Prepared” which is available to Californians in multiple languages through the state and local county OES offices and disseminated by a number of corporate partners. The “10 Ways” tips brochure is available for downloading at www.oes.ca.gov.



First Lady Maria Shriver participates in the Office of Emergency Services' (OES) “Day of Preparedness” Fair. Maria joins Henry Renteria, Director of OES and addresses the audience about the importance of family preparedness and what children can do to help their families create an emergency plan.

California! When Disaster Strikes, Will You Be Ready?

Do you know what to do? Do you have a plan? Fire, police and emergency medical services may be delayed in responding. You need to learn what to do, have a plan and be prepared to take care of yourself, your family and your community.

In California, whether it's wildfires, earthquakes or winter

storms — it's not a matter of if a disaster will strike, but when. Our state faces its share of natural disasters and it is certainly not immune to potential terrorist attack.

You need to be ready! When you are ready, California is too! Thanks for doing your part.

The California Conservation Corps provides a lesson in sand bagging where Maria and children practice building a sand bag wall.



Be Smart, Be Responsible, Be Prepared. Be Ready!

Get Involved, Volunteer, Bear Responsibility

10 ways YOU can be Disaster Prepared

1. Identify Your Risk
2. Create a Family Disaster Plan
3. Practice Your Disaster Plan
4. Build a Disaster Supply Kit For Your Home and Car
5. Prepare Your Children
6. Don't Forget Those With Special Needs
7. Learn CPR and First Aid
8. Eliminate Hazards in Your Home and The Workplace
9. Understand Post 9/11 Risks
10. Get Involved, Volunteer, Bear Responsibility

Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women and Families

A message from First Lady Maria Shriver:

What an extraordinary day! The 2005 California Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women and Families was a huge success! This year marked the 19th Anniversary of this non-partisan, annual event by spotlighting "Women as Architects of Change: Lessons on Leadership, Activism and Family."

With more than 11,000 women experiencing history in the making, the Governor and First Lady's Conference continues to be the largest one-day gathering of women in the country. We were thrilled to once again create a day that enlightened and inspired the women of our great state.

The morning's Legendary Architects of Change guests got the day jump started with award winning television journalists Barbara Walters and Tom Brokaw with fellow award winning producer Linda Ellerbee as well as tennis legend Billie Jean King, and novelist Isabel Allende. The open forum conversation with remarkable California women of our time moderated by Brokaw pulled the arena crowd in as if hosted in our own living rooms.

With the fascinating line-up of session speakers, the buzz among the crowd was how to choose which session to attend! The intriguing and empowering seminars included extraordinary

hosts, speakers and panelists like, finance expert Suze Orman, world-renowned breast cancer expert Dr. Susan Love, Pastor Rick Warren, National Geographic Explorer host Lisa Ling, journalist Leeza Gibbons, The Oprah Magazine Editor-at-Large Gayle King and Radio Talk Show Host Dr. Laura Schlessinger teaching and inspiring all of us to become better Architects of Change.

Walking the floor of the expanded exhibit hall space, Volunteer Village and California Marketplace, I was able to experience along with the ladies in attendance the fabulous new layout and its excited and enthusiastic reception. Areas like the California Marketplace — a special area that highlighted a wide array of California cuisine, produce and products, promoting healthy eating and living, California style — were packed! It was wonderful to see the connections people made with groups like the California Service Corps, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Leadership California as well as enjoying the fun freebies from companies like Target, BP America Inc. and Estee Lauder Companies. And the popular bookstore with author signings and internet café were still a big hit.

But most exciting was the move of our general sessions to the Convention Center Arena. It



Maria Shriver and Billie Jean King sit down with Jann Carl, anchor for Entertainment Tonight, the number-one syndicated entertainment newsmagazine in the world.

looked fabulous and the 11,000 attendees were able to have a more intimate view of the action on stage. Like at lunch when actress and humanitarian activist Jane Fonda sparkled and inspired us on how to guide our children as positive architects of change. And everyone had a front row seat to history in the making when Barbara Walters pulled up a chair to chat with brilliant and charming United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor — which received global press coverage.

This year, I was also proud to introduce the Minervas of Tomorrow program, granting young women an opportunity to interact with the dynamic role models and mentors at the conference. Youth involved with the program attend the conference general sessions and seminars, as well as the "Minervas of Tomorrow Youth Leadership Session," especially designed to fit youth interests. The program provides young women with an opportunity to share in this inspirational and educational day, celebrating women leaders of the past and those creating a vision for the future.

I was also proud to introduce, with the Governor, the Minerva Scholars program award winners, four college women who have shown their dedication to improving our great state, each receiving a \$25,000 scholarship.

This year's conference broke records in terms of participant satisfaction, national press coverage and audience diversity. We hope to build upon that success, striving to create a 'conference with a conscience' and a meaningful way to reach California's 16 million remarkable women. You can help us with this goal by registering today and participating in our online community — a fabulous way to continue the momentum started by the conference, and keep it going year-round. You can access the conference community site, watch webcasts of the 2005 conference, download podcasts and register for upcoming live chats by signing onto www.californiagovernorsconference.org.

I hope you will seriously consider participating in the interactive message boards and forums and connect with volunteer opportunities. When you join, you will also receive updates about our plans for 2006.

It is my hope we can expand the conference from a one-day event to an ever-growing, year-round community of "Architects of Change." Together, I know we can create a group that will inspire and enlighten the women of California.

I look forward to welcoming you to Long Beach, California next year on Tuesday, September 26, 2006.

**Warmest regards,
Maria Shriver**

FIRST LADY MARIA SHRIVER AND SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR





CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE
ON WOMEN
AND FAMILIES

2005 Conference on Women and Families



2nd Annual Minerva Awards Ceremony

Created and Presented by First Lady Maria Shriver

Recognizing four extraordinary California women for their profound courage, determination and devotion to helping serve others, First Lady Maria Shriver presided over the second annual Minerva Awards Ceremony that took place during the 2005 Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women and Families.

Created by Shriver in 2004, the Minerva Awards are named after the Roman Goddess of Wisdom and Justice portrayed on the California State Seal who symbolizes the dual nature of women as warrior and peacemaker. The distinguished Minerva Awards are bestowed annually upon California women whose indisputable humanitarian qualifications demonstrate the enduring power of great acts of service.

"All four Minerva Award recipients have transcended great personal challenges and continued their life's journey by devoting their time to helping those who are in need," said Maria Shriver. "The shared ideals of the honorees remind me of the lessons my father, Sargent Shriver, taught me as I was growing up. Every woman has the power to make a difference in her community, state and world.

"I firmly believe that by empowering all Californians to step up and help others, we can take what is wrong and make it right. These four inspirational California women have served as great architects of change and will forever serve as remarkable role models for others to emulate. Above all, I commend these honorees for daring to look outside themselves and for finding happiness through selfless acts of serving others," Shriver continued.

Each of the four organizations supporting the work of the winners will receive a \$10,000 grant from Target to continue with their achievements. "Target is hon-



First Lady Maria Shriver (middle) congratulates Minerva award winners (from left) Janice Mirikitani, Sister Jennie Lechtenberg, SNJM, Former U.S. First Lady Betty Ford (represented by her daughter Susan Ford Bales), and Anita L. DeFrantz.

And the Minerva goes to...

Former Olympian Anita L. DeFrantz of Los Angeles

Sister Jennie Lechtenberg, SNJM, of Los Angeles

Poet and Humanitarian, Janice Mirikitani of San Francisco

And the Lifetime Achievement Minerva goes to...

Former U.S. First Lady Betty Ford of Rancho Mirage

ored to recognize the remarkable Minerva Award winners for our second year," said Laysa Ward, Vice President for Community Relations, Target. "These awards spotlight true mentors and role models and help to pave the way for future Minervas and all women, not only in California, but worldwide."

Shriver presented honorees with

their Minerva Award during the California Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women and Families held in Long Beach on October 27, 2005. The Minerva Award, designed by California sculptor Lita Albuquerque, and the honorees will be showcased in the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts located one block away from the State Capitol in Sacramento.

"It is an honor to be named a recipient of the Minerva award. I believe that each one of us has the responsibility to give back for what we have achieved. I will continue my efforts to inspire our next generation of leaders."

ANITA L. DEFRANTZ
AAF PRESIDENT

2005 Minerva Award Winners

Betty Ford

Her name alone represents the great crusade she has waged for more than thirty years to raise awareness around breast cancer and addiction. Time and time again, Betty Ford has bravely revealed her humanity in public, angering some, inspiring most. She has been a role model for confronting life's problems with dignity and without shame, willing to turn convention on its head when need be, and she has been a fierce advocate for those suffering from women's diseases. She has succeeded in establishing a world-renowned center that fights every day to help thousands earn a second chance at life. Betty Ford has used her position of political privilege with grace, purpose and success. Betty Ford is a woman of peaceful means who has battled heroically and tirelessly in a style that could intimidate even Minerva herself.

Anita L. DeFrantz

Anita is recognized for helping female athletes overcome discrimination at all levels of sports. An Olympic medalist in rowing, Vice President of the 1984 Los Angeles Games Organizing Committee and the first American female and African-American to serve on the International Olympic Committee, Anita L. DeFrantz is widely considered one of the most powerful women in amateur sports. Throughout the past two decades, Anita L. DeFrantz

has used her power to help low-income boys and girls obtain access to quality sports experiences. She worked to ensure surplus funds from the 1984 L.A. Olympics went to support more than a thousand youth sports organizations, including Ability First which provides athletic opportunities for children with developmental challenges. The Los Angeles Amateur Athletic Foundation which DeFrantz heads, has also provided more than 150 million dollars to help hundreds of thousands of children enjoy sports – many of these children return as adults to serve as mentors and coaches.

Sister Jennie Lechtenberg, SNJM

Sister Jennie Lechtenberg, SNJM, turned her passion for teaching and devotion to children into a success story that any corporate CEO would envy. After serving as a teacher and administrator at local elementary and junior high schools for 30 years, Sister Jennie founded the nationally and internationally renowned PUENTE Learning Center in 1985 and continues to serve as its Executive Director. Sister Jennie broke new ground with PUENTE, a multi-generational learning center for children and adults which provides need-specific educational instruction to more than 3,000 economically and educationally disadvantaged students each day. This amazingly effective teaching program with centers in East and South Los Angeles has a near perfect success rate with the

“It is a privilege to be chosen.

Community service is a vital part of my life and I hope this award encourages other individuals to make a difference in their own particular way.”

SISTER JENNIE LECHTENBERG, SNJM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PUENTE LEARNING CENTER

high school students it serves. Sister Jennie is widely regarded as a pioneer in family literacy and broadly heralded as a compassionate community leader. Her views and strategies have been sought out by presidents, mayors and even the Prince of Wales. For Sister Jennie, it is the thousands of children who have been helped by PUENTE that matter most.

Janice Mirikitani

Janice Mirikitani represents what a fully committed woman is all about in the year 2005. Under Janice's leadership in partnership with her husband, the Reverend Cecil Williams, Glide Memorial Church has achieved worldwide recognition for its multiracial, multicultural programs that have transformed and empowered the lives of tens of thousands of people. Its growth has been phenomenal with an annual budget of \$12 million, a diverse staff of 175 and a volunteer cadre

that reached 35,000 in 1999. As an author, Mirikitani has written and edited dozens of landmark books, journals and anthologies along with her own four books of poetry and she served as San Francisco's poet laureate for two years. She has choreographed more than 35 productions as a producing director of Glide Dance Ensemble. A third generation Japanese American, born in Stockton just before World War II, Janice and her family were interned in camps. As a child, she experienced 11 years of sexual abuse by various family members and she was battered as a young woman. She uses these experiences in her art and to create recovery programs for women at Glide. One Glide staff member called her San Francisco royalty, saying “If serving people is what royalty does, then Janice deserves to be a queen.”

“I commend these honorees for daring to look outside themselves and for finding happiness through selfless acts of serving others.”

MARIA SHRIVER

Statewide Listening Tour on Health, Nutrition and Obesity

The first lady worked alongside the governor in preparing for the Summit on Health, Nutrition and Obesity. She spent the summer months traveling across California on a listening tour to learn more about existing school and community programs designed to combat the obesity epidemic. During the summit, Maria shared her findings with health leaders throughout the state and country.

During this tour, Maria visited Stoner Avenue Elementary School and Mar Vista Clinic, James Monroe High School, the East Bay Asian Youth Center and the California Endowment Healthy Eating and Active Communities program, the Children's Health, the Nations Wealth Conference at the Skirball Center and the Robertson Community Center's summer camp program for overweight children from low-income areas.



As part of her "It Works" statewide listening tour, Maria Shriver visits Stoner Avenue Elementary School to view a school-based obesity prevention program. The student population is 92% Latino, 4% African American, 1% Asian and 1% Caucasian. It primarily serves low-income families and 92% of the students participate in the free or reduced meal program.



Maria pays a visit to James Munroe High School to talk to students and see first-hand the model-student driven effort to bring nutritious foods onto campus and to create weekend community farmers markets.



Maria visits the Oakland EBAYC youth center and takes a walking tour through the surrounding neighborhood in an effort to determine if healthy foods are sold in any nearby food stores.



Governor's Summit on Health, Nutrition and Obesity

SEPTEMBER 2005

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger led California's efforts to combat the obesity crisis facing the state as he convened the first-of-its-kind Governor's Summit on Health, Nutrition and Obesity. Bringing together leaders and experts from the business, education, government, and public health communities, the summit yielded immediate results that will improve the health and physical fitness of Californians and help combat the state's obesity crisis.

"This is a day of action, a day that we are joining together to launch a bold and unified effort to fight a serious health problem in our state. California is facing an obesity epidemic – over the last decade Californians have gained 360 million pounds and one in every three of our children is overweight. This dangerous trend is unacceptable," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "I challenge leaders in government, business, education, medicine and parenting to continue the work we have begun today to make California the nation's model for health, nutrition and fitness."

Joining Governor Schwarzenegger was First Lady Maria Shriver. Leading by example, the governor and the first lady kicked off the day's activities by joining Lance Armstrong and more than eight hundred children on a three-quarter mile "Get Healthy California" walk in an effort to encourage Californians to exercise.

"As I traveled the state, I saw first hand the remarkable efforts many Californians are making to ensure their communities are healthy environments, but I also learned that many of our neighborhoods don't have safe parks and playgrounds or available fresh produce. The steps we are taking together today will go a long way towards addressing these problems," said First Lady Maria Shriver. "Today I

encourage all California parents to join the leaders here today by setting an example for their children through getting active, eating healthy and volunteering in their communities to help improve the wellbeing of their children, friends and neighbors."

At the summit, Governor Schwarzenegger's vision for a healthy California was unveiled. The governor took action to ensure California's students have access to healthy food and beverages in schools as he signed SB 12 and SB 965 by Senator Martha Escutia (D-Montebello), landmark legislation to give California's public schools the strongest nutrition standards in the nation, and SB 281 by Senator Abel Maldonado (R-San Luis Obispo) which provides a framework to implement the \$18.2 million in the Governor's budget to include more fresh fruits and vegetables in school meal programs. The governor also called upon his cabinet to implement new policies throughout his administration to create an environment that encourages the health and fitness of Californians.

In addition to the commitments made by the governor and his administration to fight obesity, many of the largest companies doing business in California, non-profit organizations, pediatricians and healthcare companies in attendance at the summit, accepted the governor's challenge to create and announce initiatives targeted at helping parents and children lead healthy lives by making nutritious foods and exercise opportunities more accessible. Governor Schwarzenegger recognized these commitments through his "Summit Honor Roll."

The summit was sponsored by The California Endowment.

In addition to Governor Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria



Maria joins Governor Schwarzenegger and Lance Armstrong and kicks off the event.



Maria talks with Dr. Phil McGraw about health and nutrition.

Dr. Mehmet Oz conducts a visual demonstration about how fat impacts our bodies.

SACRAMENTO BEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2005

The summit received statewide and national media attention.



Shriver, summit speakers included: best selling author, Dr. Mehmet Oz; Director for the Center for Disease Control's Division of Nutrition, Dr. William

Dietz; CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta; renowned chef and healthy eating trailblazer, Alice Waters; and Dr. Phil McGraw.

Celebrating the Holidays

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver hosted the 74th annual State Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the West Steps of the State Capitol. In celebration of the spirit of giving, this year's ceremony also included a toy drive for needy children in Sacramento. The governor and first lady addressed the crowd welcoming in the holiday season, encouraging Californians to remember the importance of continuing to serve others to strengthen and support our state and nation.

The community filled a Santa's sleigh with unwrapped toys and books as part of a toy

drive sponsored by the California Service Corps. Collected toys and books were distributed by Hands On Sacramento to the Children's Receiving Home, St. John's Shelter for Women and Children and the Salvation Army.

Musical performances by the Sacramento Children's Chorus, St. Paul's Baptist Choir and cast members of Sacramento Theatre Company's A Christmas Carol kicked-off the festivities. Jazz vocalist and Grammy Award winner Diane Reeves and producer, songwriter and 14-time Grammy Award winner David Foster, performing along with Nita Whitaker, entertained the crowd.



The Governor and First Lady were joined by nine year-old José Antonio Damian Puga of Santa Maria for the 74th Annual State Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the West Steps of the State Capitol.

The community filled a Santa's sleigh with unwrapped toys and books as part of a toy drive sponsored by the California Service Corps.

Serving California's Military Families

In celebration of the holiday season, the governor and first lady sent cards to more than five thousand California National Guard men and women who are stationed abroad. Enclosed in each card was a phone card worth 200 minutes of phone time to ensure our service personnel can call home and listen to the voices of their loved ones. The phone card serves as a token of appreciation for their service to our country.



2005 Holiday Card

The 2005 card design is a replica of a beautiful acrylic painting by California artist Governor Schwarzenegger. The governor has been painting for numerous years and the artwork featured is titled "Joy to the World."



LOOKING AHEAD

Shining a Light on Solutions to Poverty

Hurricane Katrina was a teachable moment in our nation's history. It taught each and every one of us the importance of taking personal responsibility for ensuring our families are prepared when disaster strikes. In a major disaster, it might take days or even weeks for rescue teams to reach our neighborhoods and we can't rely on government alone to help us. Katrina also taught us more about the invisible poor who call America home.

MARIA SHRIVER

In the aftermath of Katrina, Maria appeared on statewide and national television programs to remind Californians to become prepared. She welcomed Katrina evacuees to our state and met with many Katrina victims at the Dream Center in Los Angeles.

Appearing on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Maria also joined Anderson Cooper and Gayle King in reporting stories of American families who are struggling to survive. Together, they took a closer look at what it means to live in poverty in an advanced

country like the United States. Their stories were broadcast on the Oprah Winfrey show titled, "Inside the Lives of America's Poor."

More than 36 million Americans live in poverty and almost five million of these individuals call California home.

First Lady Maria Shriver will join Senator Dianne Feinstein and serve as honorary co-chair for The Daughters of Charity Health Services (DCHS) Conference on Poverty. The conference will be held in February 2006 at the University of Southern California and will convene nationally recognized scholars, policy makers and leaders to focus on creative, innovative and achievable solutions to one of the country's most shameful realities: the cycle of systemic poverty. The conference expects to attract 300-400 participants from throughout California, including representatives from government, the private sector, non-profit organizations and academia. For more information about the conference, please visit their website at <http://www.dchsconferenceon-poverty.org>.



Maria helps to hand out food boxes, school supplies and emergency backpacks to low-income families in Sacramento at the Feed the Children event on September 14, 2005.



Setting out to learn about programs working to help California's working poor and homeless, Maria met with Minerva Award winner Janice Mirikitani to talk about services provided by Glide Memorial Church and Foundation.

Glide Memorial Church and Foundation

Under the leadership of Rev. Cecil Williams and Executive Director Janice Mirikitani, Glide's 40 years of experience in service and advocacy have earned it national recognition. Glide is one of the largest providers of human services in the City and County of San Francisco, serving more than 2,000 individuals daily.



"Four of the twenty poorest cities in this country are in California. One in five children in our state live in poverty. There are things we all can do to impact these statistics — whether it's volunteering to be a mentor, donating food or clothing or helping build homes for the working poor."

MARIA SHRIVER



www.firstlady.ca.gov